

REMARKS

Claims 18, 19, 21, 23, 25 and 42 are amended. Claims 18, 19, 21-27, 29-32, and 42 are pending in this application.

Claims 24-27 and 29-32 are allowed. Claim 25 is amended herein to correct a typographical error.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The Examiner contends that the subject matter shown in the last two lines of claim 42 is not shown in the drawings. In addition, the specification is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the last two lines in claims 18 and 42. Regarding claim 18, the last two lines therein have been deleted, thereby rendering this objection thereto moot. Regarding claim 42, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and 37 CFR 1.83(a) objections thereto. At page 5 lines 15-18, the specification recites that “[a]t least some portions of the lines 32, 34, 36, 48, 50, 60, and 62 are flexible to accommodate the pivoting movement of module 10 between its first, wall position and second, bed position and to accommodate the movement of first upper housing portion 84 between its extended and retracted positions.” Accordingly, claim 42 language “the washing station having a drain line that is coupled to the washing station and that has *a portion which is flexible* to accommodate the movement of the washing station as it moves with the first portion between the first and second positions” clearly finds proper antecedent basis in the specification as required by 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1). (*Italics provided.*) Lines 32, 34, 36, 48, 50, 60 and 62 are shown in Fig. 4. Accordingly, withdrawal of the aforesaid 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and 37 CFR 1.83(a) objections to the specification and drawings is requested.

Claim 42 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, 1st paragraph, “as containing subject matter not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, has possession of the claimed invention.” The examiner further asserts that “[i]mplementation of this subject matter is neither taught by the instant disclosure nor evident to the examiner.” As just mentioned, page 5 lines 15-18 of the subject application teach that “portions of lines 32, 34, 36, 48, 50, 60 and 62 are flexible.” Accordingly, withdrawal of the aforesaid 35 U.S.C. 112, 1st paragraph, rejection of claim 42 is requested.

Claims 19, 21, and 23 are amended herein to depend from claim 42, instead of claim 18. Claim 22 depends from claim 21. Accordingly, claims 19 and 21-23 are believed to be allowable for the reasons given above in support of claim 42.

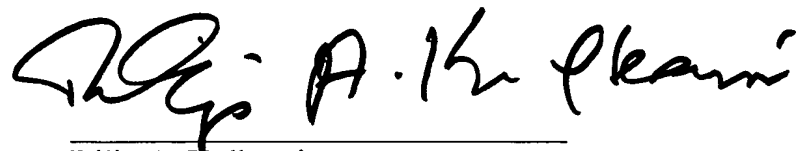
Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 877,196 to Hubert ("Hubert") is requested. It is believed that claim 18 is not anticipated by Hubert at least for the reasons given below.

Regarding claim 18, Hubert does not disclose or suggest "the washing station having a faucet that moves with the washing station as the washing station moves with the first portion between the first and second positions." Hubert's swing cock 34 does not move with the wash bowl 27 as the wash bowl 27 moves with the box 28 between the rearward and forward positions. Instead, as best shown in Figs. 2, 4 and 5, the swing cock 34 is mounted to the bath tub 25, and does not move with the wash bowl 27. Accordingly, at least for these reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claim 18 is not anticipated by Hubert, and hence withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection thereof is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendment and supporting remarks, the subject application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview would expedite the allowance of this application, he is requested to contact the undersigned for a prompt resolution of any outstanding issues.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages and other fees be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg, Deposit Account No. 10-0435, with reference to file 7175-73311.

Respectfully submitted,
BARNES & THORNBURG



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